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**Ottawa
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bulletin



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"PUTTING ON A BRANCH", Artist Elie Benzaquen

Chaf Sameach!

Lodge grand opening celebrates completion of the Community Campus

By Diane Koven

In spite of an ominous weather forecast, the sun shone brightly on the joyous festivities as the final "Jewel in the crown" of the Jewish Community Campus was officially unveiled.

On Sunday, September 24, over 600 people filled the tents outside the Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Long Term Care Centre which houses the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge to participate in, and celebrate together, the opening of this magnificent facility.

Evelyn Greenberg welcomed everyone who had come to be part of the historic event. Noting that the event had been orchestrated by Roz Kanigsberg, Green-



INEZ ZELIKOVITZ (left) and BESS GREENBERG (right) cut the ribbon to officially open the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge in the Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Long Term Care Centre. Laya Shabinsky (far right) stands next to her mother while Greenberg's other daughters, Elissa Iny and Syrielle Rosman, Regional Chair Bob Chiarelli and Roger Greenberg, chair of the Community Capital Campaign look on. (Photo: Robin Chernick)

Hands-on Mitzvah Day: You can make a difference

By Shelli Kimmel

The organizing committee of the Hands-On Mitzvah Day, scheduled for Sunday November 26, is excited about the phenomenal potential for the day.

Sarah Beutel, chair of the event, reports that the committee members come from a variety of organizations and agencies, creating a real sense of a "community" day. Add to that the wonderful mitzvot that are being lined

up, both within the Jewish and broader communities, and the program will completely fulfil the "community-wide" mandate. Beutel also sees the committee as a "wonderful opportunity for young adults to work with more experienced committee members on planning a community-wide event."

The mitzvot provide ample opportunities for every member of the community to become involved.

Even organizations that are generally on the receiving end have become involved as participants as well. Tamir residents, for example, will be providing the volunteer support so necessary to the Blood Donor Clinic being held in the SJCC gymnasium.

Additionally, helping prepare a meal at one of the Tamir group homes will have volunteers working in the kitchen alongside the

residents. This worthwhile endeavour allows both the individuals performing the mitzvah as well as the recipients to benefit from the interaction.

Also being developed is an intergenerational program at the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge in the Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Long Term Care Centre. Having the facility on the campus enables the residents to

become involved in community events like the Hands-On Mitzvah Day.

The mitzvot are for the broader community as well. Carol Bayne, the volunteer co-ordinator at Ronald McDonald House, a home away from home for families of terminally ill children, is enthusiastic about the assistance she will get from volunteers.

Throughout the region, one of the needs expressed

repeatedly is for toiletry items for the shelters. The request has been made for new bottles of shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, soap, and other toiletry items. Collection bins will be set up in the lobby of the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building in the week leading up to Mitzvah Day.

Mitzvot can be large or small, take place on the cam-

(Continued on page 6)

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COMMENTARY

A strong connection to Israel strengthens Jewish identity



VAAD Report

Stephen Greenberg
President, Vaad Ha'Ir

In a recent survey that was conducted for the Planning and Priorities Committee one of the things we learned was that members of our community who have visited Israel are more likely to be involved, feel a stronger desire to pass on their traditions and are more likely to be contributors to Jewish charities. While this is not shocking news, it certainly reinforces a commonly held belief that it is important to encourage Jews to develop a strong connection to Israel.

This trend that we have noticed among Ottawa Jews was already identified by the people who developed the idea for

the *birthright israel* program which is aiming to offer every Jewish child a free 10 day trip to Israel as their Jewish birthright. The Ottawa community is participating in this innovative project that is attempting to make a dramatic impact on the Jewish identity of our youth.

Our challenge as a community and as a people is not only to ensure that our youth develop a connection to Israel but that our community as a whole maintains a strong connection to Israel. Despite the enormous pride that Jews have toward Israel, I think it is safe to say that our connections to Israel have weakened over the last decade. I believe that we need to reverse this trend and that the opportunities to build stronger ties to Israel are plentiful.

One manifestation of our weakening relationship to Israel is the reduction of the amount of our UJA campaign that we send to projects in Israel and overseas. In the early 1990s, when our UJA campaign fell dramatically, we made a community decision to make the largest reduction to our overseas allocation. As we now are on the verge of rebuilding our cam-

paign to the levels we raised in the '80s, it is important to remember that we have responsibilities as Jews to participate in projects along with all of world Jewry. For the last 10 years, we have not shouldered as high a proportion of that responsibility as other Canadian Jewish communities. By participating in charitable ventures with the rest of the Jewish world we build stronger ties.

We also participate in the Partnership 2000 (P2K) program which has linked all Canadian Jewish communities outside of Montreal and Toronto with the Galilee Panhandle, the most northern region of Israel. The goal of Partnership 2000 is to build a "living bridge" between our twinned region and our community. Rather than focussing on capital projects, the aim is to develop people to people connections, to build relationships and to share expertise and experiences. Several of our schools have participated in exchanges and have fostered ongoing dialogue. This month, four residents and four staff from Tamir will be travelling to Israel on an exchange with a program that serves a similar client group in Israel. Those that have participated in P2K initiatives have developed good friendships and have benefited from the connections.

We also have a new initiative in Ottawa dedicated to bringing Israel programming and culture to our city. The Vered Israel Cultural Program at the Soloway JCC is dedicated to exposing the community to greater opportunities to appreciate and learn about the richness of Israeli culture. In addition to organizing our community's celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, the Cultural Program is bringing in speakers, photographic and art exhibits and performances.

We can also express our connection to Israel through the purchase of State of Israel Bonds, support of JNF, Hadassah-WIZO, the Canada Israel Cultural Foundation or other Israel based organizations. However one chooses to develop a stronger tie to Israel, it is an important aspect of the strengthening of our Jewish identity and passing on Jewish traditions to the next generation.

* * * * *

As you no doubt noticed, the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* changed its look substantially last issue. In addition to changing the masthead and creating a fresh new look for the paper, the *Bulletin* added new features and columnists to appeal to broader community interests. I think that the changes substantially improve the paper and will help it to better fulfill its mandate as the primary information source for our Jewish community. Special thanks go to the *Bulletin* staff as well as Margo Roston and the *Bulletin* committee for a job well done. Yasher Koach.

There is much to be thankful for

Kverching about the Jewish community and its shortcomings appears to be one of our local "Olympic" sports. And yes, there are many things in our community that need improvement. However, there are many more things about which we, as a community, should be very proud.

We live in a beautiful city that is no longer a "dorf", a village. We are quickly becoming a world-class capital city. As the rabbi of the downtown shul, I meet many visitors to our fair city and over the years have found myself serving as an Ottawa "cheerleader".

Our community has synagogues of all descriptions and a newcomer can always find a house of worship. Our seniors have just moved into a new state-of-the-art facility, the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge housed in the Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Long Term Care Centre, located on our beautiful new campus. We have a Kosher Food Bank at Agudath Israel Congregation, and thanks to our local B'nai Brith Lodges and community volunteers, Passover Food Baskets are delivered to the needy. Many individuals make donations to the Tikvah Fund for the needy and to the Hebrew Free Loan Association.

As one of the clergy who regularly visits patients in hospitals, I have heard how proud and appreciative many members of our community are of the countless volunteers who prepare meals, visit, offer their homes to visitors and the like. This past summer a group of high school and post high school girls set up Shifra-Puah, a volunteer organization dedicated to assisting families with basic tasks such as shopping for the homebound and helping with child care.

Parents of our younger children have a number of options for outstanding nursery schools at the Soloway JCC, Tiny Treasures and day school affiliates. Choices for day and afternoon school are varied and available on a scale found only in larger cities. High school students who want a Jewish education have such choices as a boys' Yeshiva, a girls' Yeshiva, and a co-ed school. On Wednesday nights at Akiva one can see the interrelationship of our teenagers from across the spectrum of the community. The kids come to learn and to socialize. You may also find our teenagers hanging out at Viva's on Saturday nights or at the Teen Lounge of the SJCC during the week.

In our community educational activities are available to all who wish to learn. There are various adult education classes at our synagogues, at the Soloway JCC, and through JET (Jewish Education Through Torah) among others. The JET summer programs and Shabbatonim are marked on the



From the pulpit

Rabbi Ely Braun
Beth Shalom

calendar by many families months in advance. Our community has some outstanding Jewish libraries: The Greenberg Families Library at the SJCC; the Jewish Children's Library with its outstanding collection of tapes; Machzikei Hadas's video library; the Malca Pass Library at Agudath Israel; and of course, the world-famous Lowy Collection at the National Library of Canada.

For families, the SJCC has been responsive in providing activities for all ages. The attitude of the SJCC of the unique needs of families is best exemplified by the well-designed family changing room with its private cubicles which permit fathers to take their daughters and mothers to take their sons to the variety of sports activities. And how many communities have shown their respect for religious modesty by providing scheduled hours of secluded men's or women's only swimming?

Like any large city, one can now order a complete Shabbat meal from our Vaad Ha Kashrut-supervised caterers or pick up prepared foods from our two kosher grocery stores, Loblaw's at Pincroft and Kosher Town. And for individuals who need an Eruv, they have only to call 521-3773 to receive information. We have not one but three mikvahs in the community and a mikvah for dishes open daily at the SJCC.

Our community has great Cantorial Concerts and Jewish musical events. Intercongregational cooperation is exemplified by the Annual Chanukah Ball.

Some of our programs and organizations are new, others have been functioning for generations such as the Ottawa Chevra Kadisha. New programs develop when the need is identified and then our marvellous volunteers will go into action.

All of us, at times, wish for more. All of us, at times, complain about not having enough. Although the above listing is extensive, it represents only a small part of why I am proud to be part of the Ottawa Jewish community. There is still so much more to be appreciative of and so many more people to thank.

bulletin

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Ottawa welcomes eight new Lions of Judah

By Diane Koven

Thirty women, proudly wearing their Lion of Judah pins, attended the "Todah Rabah Luncheon" held recently at the home of Barbara Crook, guest speaker at the event.

The Lion of Judah Division of the United Jewish Appeal includes women who contribute at least \$5,000 annually to the UJA Campaign. The 42 local women who wear the Lion of Judah pin have committed themselves to the cause of helping their fellow Jews and do so by making this meaningful individual gift to UJA Women's campaign.

Women's Divisions worldwide have assumed an increasingly significant role in raising funds for cam-

paigns and the Ottawa Jewish community is no exception. Eight new Lions of Judah were welcomed at the recent luncheon: Rona Eisenberg, Libby Katz, Lori Loeb, Evelyn Potechin, Gail Victor, Ruth Viner, Debbie Weinstein and Sharon Weinstein. They join more than 7000 women from communities around the world who proudly participate in the Lion of Judah program.

Lion of Judah Division co-chairs Dorothy Nadolny and Ethel Taylor invite and encourage interested women to join this dedicated group. For more information please contact Dorothy (521-0775) or Ethel (235-8638) or call Celia Abraham in the UJA office (798-4696 ext. 248)



Co-chairs Dorothy Nadolny and Ethel Taylor welcome three of the eight new Lions who attended the Lion of Judah luncheon on September 12. Pictured (left to right) are: Ethel Taylor, Evelyn Potechin, Libby Katz, Sharon Weinstein, Dorothy Nadolny.

Everything you always wanted to know about where your UJA dollars go, but weren't afraid to ask!

By Diane Koven

It is often a source of confusion to donors and potential donors when they are asked to give, and to give generously – Just exactly where is our money going? The money collected for the United Jewish Appeal is allocated between the various beneficiary agencies in our own community and the overseas needs of our fellow Jews around the world.

In future articles, some of our local beneficiary agencies will be featured, demonstrating the important work your UJA contribution is doing and the very real differences the money is making right here in Ottawa.

As in the past, a portion of our local campaign dollars will be sent to help Jews overseas through the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). This is not just a token donation, sent randomly to be

used in unknown ways and places. Our money really matters in Israel today, in very timely and concrete ways.

Through the UJA's Partnership 2000 (P2K) program, Ottawa is partnered with the Galilee Panhandle, the northern part of Israel, which has suffered for years from the political strife in the region. Donna Dolansky is the national chair of the Coast-to-Coast Canada Partnership 2000 Steering Committee, made up of five "intermediate" communities across Canada (Ottawa, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver and the Maritimes) which, together, are the partners of the Galilee region of Israel. She has seen with her own eyes the tremendous difference our Canadian contributions have made to the comfort and stability of the region. "In some ways," she says, "we are involved at a very grassroots level in things that affect the day-to-day lives of the people in the area."

For example, after Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, the summer months for people living in the north were tense and many citizens were fraught with apprehension. It was difficult for schoolchildren to relax and enjoy their vacation. Because of a spe-

cial campaign using UJA dollars, a variety of social activities made the summer brighter for children and adults in the area. Summer camps were opened, including several for children with special needs and cultural "happenings" were organized: a rock concert dubbed "Blue Skies" entertained 10,000 residents of the North in Kiryat Shmona; a beach party took place at Achziv; and 1,600 children went to a "fun-day" at an amusement park. The purchase of special equipment such as sporting goods and musical instruments enriched the activities of community centres.

By concentrating our partnership efforts on a specific region in Israel, P2K allows us to have a much greater impact than we could achieve by giving to a variety of disparate organizations. It also allows us to form relationships with people and organizations in our partner communities. Already, exchanges between students and teachers have taken place (Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School have participated in P2K "Living Bridge" exchanges) and these will continue. "This could be expanded to include other interest groups, to strengthen ties between our countries," said Dolansky.

A portion of our UJA dollars is also allocated to help our fellow Jews in the Former Soviet Union and, in another partnership program, Canada is twinned with the Kievskaya region. Hundreds of thousands of elderly Jews, many of them Holocaust survivors, live in squalid conditions, doing without proper food and suffering without heat in the extreme winter cold. The Kievskaya Project is a partnership project of the United Israel Appeal Federations Canada, JAFI and the Joint Distribution Committee. The money allocated to the Project is used to alleviate the extreme and unimaginable poverty faced by our fellow Jews in the region and to facilitate Aliyah to Israel for those who wish to leave.

Partnership is not just a word, it is a way of life for Jews. We are all partners, whether we live in Canada, in Kiev, or in Israel. We can learn from one another, and we must help one another. That is what it means to be a Jew and that is what our UJA dollars will be used for. Give generously when asked, and don't be afraid to ask where your money is going. We want to talk about it. We are proud of the many wonderful ways our UJA contributions help Jews in need around the world.



FEATURE

Ottawan helps document golden era of Jewish scholarship in Southern France

By Estelle Melzer

Ottawans Earl and Simone Maser are spending part of their retirement in Montpellier, a charming city with a population of 350,000, situated in the south of France.

Renowned for the quality of its urban development, Montpellier is also proud of its long history, preserved in the many buildings and structures throughout the city, some dating as far back as the 12th century.

When Earl initially visited Montpellier with his French-born wife, he didn't realize that the area had another claim to fame. "This was once a famous city of Jewish learning," he was told by Rabbi Partouche of Montpellier. "In the Middle Ages, Montpellier was the geographical centre of an area renowned for its rabbinical scholarship. Some of

our greatest sages were born and taught in this region."

That comment started Maser on a fascinating search through libraries, museums and archives in Canada and France for more information about these sages.

Maser has now collated a list of 50 Jewish scholars between the 11th and 14th century who belonged to the school of Jewish study called the Sages of Provincia. Provincia was the name given by the rabbis to the region known in Roman and medieval times as Provincia Narbonensis. It stretched from Marseille to beyond Gerona (in what is now Spain), all in a radius of 200 kilometers from Montpellier.

"Some of these scholars were our most influential Rishonim (earlier sages). They are major Talmudic

commentators whose works allow us to probe deeply into the teachings of the Talmud," Maser explains.

The list of luminaries includes: Rabbi Avraham Ben David (Ravad, 1120-1198); Rabbi Moses Ben Nachman (Ramban, 1194-1270); Rabbi David ben Joseph Kimchi (Redak, 1160-1235); Rabbi Menachem Ben Solomo (Meiri, 1249-1316); and Rabbi Levi Ben Gershom (Gersonides, 1288-1344).

No less an authority than the great Spanish sage, Maimonides (Rambam), confirms the importance of the Rabbis of Provincia. "My friends and colleagues," Rambam wrote in his reply to the Sages of Lunel (approximately 25 kilometres from Montpellier) in 1201, "... in this difficult period you and those who live in your vicinity are the only ones who

carry high the banner of Moses. You study Talmud and cultivate the other sciences as well. But here in the East the men of wisdom are decreasing and dying out ... Thus salvation can reach us only from you ..."

Maser has long had a keen interest in Jewish scholarship. "The Sages of Provincia," he explains, "were knowledgeable in many different areas." Strongly influenced by the Spanish enlightenment, several were learned in the sciences, philosophy, medicine, astronomy and mathematics. They were a pivot between the north and south schools of Judaic learning. The analytical methods of the north were transferred via Provincia to the Spanish sages, seeking refuge from the Almohade invasions there. This resulted in the opening of new vistas in the areas of



MAIMONIDES' INTRODUCTION TO THE MISHNEH TORAH (1400); Pèrouse - Italie.

Halachic codes and philosophy.

However, tension between the two approaches eventually contributed to the destruction of the school of

Provincia. In the year 1232, the streets of Montpellier erupted into open conflicts between those for and against the philosophical teachings

(Continued on page 5)

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FEATURE

Ottawan helps document golden era of Jewish scholarship in Southern France

(Continued from page 4)
of Maimonides. The northern influenced scholars were protesting against Maimonides' *Guide to the Perplexed* and his introduction to *Mishneh Torah*.

Ironically, a few months previously, the Church had renewed the prohibition against teaching philosophy and began burning books. These conflicts within the Jewish community thus played right into the hands of Church authorities and the controversial works of Maimonides were also burned.

The Church progressed to burning all Talmudic works and, finally, to persecuting Jews. In 1306, Jews were expelled from most of France and Provincia by an edict of King Philippe Le Bel. Some Jews were readmitted in ensuing years, but they suffered repeated inci-

dents of slaughter, culminating in a final expulsion in 1394. Jews were not formally readmitted until after the French Revolution.

At the beginning of the 19th century, there were barely 100 Jews living in Montpellier. Today the city has a Jewish population of 5000, mostly immigrants from North Africa. There are three synagogues, a day school, a kosher food cooperative, a kosher pizzeria, a community centre, and even a Jewish radio station, Radio Aviva.

There is also a great interest in preserving Montpellier's Jewish past. A mikvah dating back to the 13th century (1272) has been discovered on Rue de la Barrière, in the heart of the old Jewish quarter. Remarkably well preserved, it is designated as a national historical site. The city is now excavating nearby and has uncovered traces of a synagogue. Reconstruction is planned. In fact, a university institute for Judaism, the Institut Maimonide, is already located by the site. The Tourist Bureau of Montpellier has a brochure on the Jewish history of the city and tours of Jewish Montpellier can be arranged.

Maser is hoping that this interest in Montpellier's Jewish history will extend beyond buildings and tombstones to a recognition of the importance of Provincia's Jewish scholars.

He is in the process of preparing a guide to the Sages of Provincia. It includes biographies of all the chief sages, facsimiles of the cover pages of their works, and maps and photographs of the Jewish quarters of the main centres of Provincia. He hopes to present his book

to municipal authorities as part of a proposal to establish a museum in Montpellier on medieval Judaism in Provincia.

Maser's enthusiasm for his subject is contagious. If his dream comes true, this Ottawan will have helped to illuminate and preserve an important facet of Jewish history in the south of France.

For more information: Montpellier Tourist Bureau, 30 Esplanade Comedie, 34000 Montpellier; tel: 04 67 58 67 58.

Other sites/events on medieval Jewish history in southern France and Catalonia: Nachmanides Research Institute in Gerona, Spain; contact: Gerona Tourist Bureau, Gerona, Spain. International Conference on Medieval Jewry, 2002 in Lunel, France; contact: Lunel Tourist Bureau, Lunel, France.



13TH CENTURY MEDIEVAL MIKVAH, excavated in Montpellier, France.

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Canada welcomes new Israeli ambassador, Haim Divon

By Diane Koven

Ambassador Haim Divon, along with his wife, Linda, and daughter, Michal, will soon be familiar faces in our community. Arriving in Ottawa in early September, just in time for the holiday season, they immediately set about to meet people and become involved in Jewish life in their new home.

Fortunately, they did not arrive as total strangers. Ambassador Divon spent two years in Toronto in the early '80s as consul at the Consulate General. He made many lasting friends during that posting and noted that some of the students he met at that time have gone on to become leaders in the Jewish community, "people such as Moshe Ronen and Jack Silverstone."

Divon is very pleased with his new assignment. "This is the wish of every diplomat," he said, "to return as an ambassador to a country in which he served in his junior days, especially in a place which he enjoyed."

Having a friend and colleague at the embassy here



Ambassador Haim Divon

will also make the initial adjustment easier for the ambassador. Amir Maimon,

counsellor, worked closely with Divon during "Operation Solomon," the Israeli airlift of Ethiopian Jews several years ago.

"I was the one who decided that Amir should be the coordinator on the ground at the embassy compound," said Divon. "We were on the telephone constantly and later when I arrived as ambassador, he was my Number 2 for a whole year. This will be a very smooth adjustment for us."

Although trained as a lawyer, Divon entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1975, shortly after receiving his licence to practice

law. His first foreign posting was as second secretary at the Consulate General of Israel in Bombay. "Generally speaking," he said, "I have been very fortunate with the assignments I have been given. For any diplomat, to begin with India was a treat. It gave me an opportunity to have a glance into a world that bears no resemblance to the world we know."

At the age of only 35, Divon was named Head of the Israel Interest Section in Sri Lanka, "a small, but complicated mission," he says. One of the highlights of that posting was a visit by the late President Chaim

Herzog.

Ambassador Divon has worked extensively over the past few years, while in Jerusalem, on developing international cooperation and aid to developing countries. He now looks forward to the new challenges which his posting in Canada will provide. "I am extremely excited to be here now and

to be able to keep developing the excellent relations which our two countries enjoy," he said. He is also looking forward to working closely with the Jewish community.

In addition to 14-year-old Michal, the Divons are the parents of an older son and daughter, both of whom are studying in London.

Ambassador Haim Divon's Rosh Hashanah Message

As I begin my tour of duty in Canada, let me say that I am most pleased to be here, and I look forward to building a close relationship with all of you.

With the peace process still in motion, I hope that this year will bring us closer to an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

As we commence a new year, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. May the coming year for all of you be a healthy, peaceful and prosperous one.

Mitzvah Day: You can make a difference

(Continued from page 1)

pus or further afield. In addition to the intergenerational program and the Blood Donor Clinic, those wishing to stay on campus will be able to make sandwiches for The Mission or bag collected toiletries for various shelters.

Volunteers willing to travel a bit will have numerous mitzvot to choose from. Mayer Alvo, chair of the Jewish Cemetery Commit-

tee, has expressed the need for people to check out the cemetery, to look for shifted headstones and pick up loose rocks and other debris. The Jewish Youth Library would appreciate volunteers willing to assist with book organization in the library.

The youth groups of the community have committed to participating in the day in a major way. Collecting

baby items for the Coalition of Community Houses and used sports equipment for the Police Youth Centre have been identified as high priorities. These items will then be sorted and delivered.

Whether helping out on campus or off, working on a

large scale or small, the need is great to have everyone in the community participate. Mark the date on the calendar. Your participation will make a difference.

For more information call Shelli Kimmel at the UJA office (798-4696 ext. 258).

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Popular mother-daughter duo hosts Jewish Music Through the Ages

By Leila Ages

The mother-daughter duo of Ruth and Florilove Katz, along with accompanist Natasha Guiller, return to the SJCC for an entertaining and informative four-part lecture series on Jewish Music and Culture Through the Ages beginning October 17, at 7:30 pm in the SJCC Social Hall. This series is offered through the Greenberg Families Library.

The first of the four lectures focuses on Jewish humour, with Ruth and Flo-

ralove sharing thoughts and perspectives on humour within the context of the Bible, Russian life, marriage, relationships and the Yiddish language itself, illustrated through songs. The second lecture on November 8, "In Praise of Jewish Women: Perspectives on Women in Judaism and in Jewish Music", examines certain historical realities affecting the lives and development of Jewish women through the ages. "A Celebration of Klezmer Music: The Ottawa

Klezmer Band in Performance", the third session on April 3, 2001, features a lively explosion of Klezmer sounds performed by The Ottawa Klezmer Band. The series finale, "The Art of the Cantor: Performances of Cantorial, Judaic and Hebraic Music" on June 5, includes a selection of riveting cantorial liturgy, evocative Yiddish theatre, popular Hebrew songs and some favourite Broadway tunes written by Jewish composers or reflecting Jewish themes.

Florilove Katz served as Temple Israel's lay cantor from 1992 to 1998 and during that time she became especially interested in Klezmer and Yiddish music particularly Yiddish theatre and art songs. Florilove was so impressed by the music that in 1988, she founded the Ottawa Klezmer Band. She has performed as a cellist with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra for the past 22 years, sings soprano with the Opera Lyra chorus, and has her own trio.



Florilove Katz



Ruth Katz

Ruth Katz, like her daughter, has immersed herself in the study of Yiddish history and culture. She is an educator and former teacher who is currently a consultant in the high-tech industry.

Natasha Guiller performs with the Ottawa Klezmer

Band and has played in various venues around town as a soloist and accompanist.

Tickets for SJCC, Library and AJA 50+ members are \$5 and \$8 for non-members. For tickets or more information, call 798-9818, ext. 245.

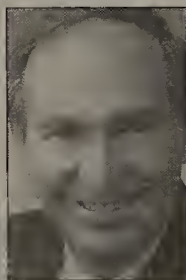
Dr. Bernard Dolansky receives Canadian Dental Association's top honour

Dr. Bernard Dolansky has been granted honorary membership in the Canadian Dental Association (CDA). Honorary Membership, CDA's top honour, recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the art and science of dentistry or to the dental profession over a sustained period of time. Dolansky received his award at the annual CDA

awards luncheon held September 16 in Ottawa.

Dolansky has been involved at all levels of organized dentistry. In 1980-81, he was president of the Ottawa Dental Society; in 1986, president of the Ontario Dental Association; and in 1992-93, CDA president.

Dolansky was among a group of visionaries whose tireless efforts led to the



Dr. Bernard Dolansky

development of CDAnet. The nation-wide network of dental offices and benefits companies, developed and administered by the dental profession, is the envy of other professions and of national dental associations in other countries.

Jewish Parenting course offered at JYL

Come and get tips, tools and techniques for maximizing the development and potential of your kids, while at the same time meeting with other parents.

Offered at the Jewish Youth Library on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm from October 25 to November 29, the course will provide informa-

tion on how to deal with your role, goals and responsibilities as a Jewish parent.

The Jewish Parenting series will be led by Baila Steinberg who will provide strategies and perspectives on interactions and relationships, character development and behaviour management resolution - all tried and true

- all the Jewish way.

The course will take place at the Jewish Youth Library, 192 Switzer Avenue. There is a \$5.00 fee for photocopying. For more information or to register, call Laura Lunn (523-4291).



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BEI OUR TOWN

Wins Bible Contest prize

Emily Moon has won third prize in the Canadian National Bible Contest of the World Zionist Organization, supplementary school division, held recently in Toronto. This was her second consecutive year to place third in the contest.

Emily, the daughter of Bob Moon and Miriam Salamon, is a 12-year-old



Emily Moon

student at Temple Israel Religious School.

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE



HILLEL ACADEMY Grade 8 students visit the MacSkimming Educational Centre.

So much to be proud of at Hillel Academy

By Benita Baker

The hallway chatter is louder than usual these days at Hillel Academy due to a record number of students. The Hillel Academy family has increased by 40, bringing the student population to 415 and making this year the first time that enrolment has increased in over 10 years.

"The increase in our student population, as well as additions to our staff comple-

ment, will enable us to expand our programs while ensuring an enthusiastic spirit or 'nuach' in our building," said Sheila Osterer, president of the Talmud Torah Board.

This school year also brought with it the arrival of the new Director of Education, Doris Bronstein. Bronstein's passionate commitment to Jewish education makes her a welcome presence in the school. "I am happy to say that I am deriv-

ing a lot of 'nachas' every day as I visit each classroom and see how students are learning and what they are learning," Bronstein remarked to parents on Curriculum Night.

Exciting new fund-raisers and initiatives are planned for Hillel this year, including the creation of the Hillel Academy Alumni Association, an opportunity for former students to rekindle their school pride.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin is seeking applicants for the position of **Business Manager**

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Administration:

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Deadline for submissions is **October 20, 2000.**

Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

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Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

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RSVP: 274-0010

ONE DAY ...

TWO SPECIAL PROGRAMS ... WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

STARLIGHT DINNER

Calling all young adults ... what could be better than dinner under that stars? Come and meet under the stars in the community sukkah for an informal starlight dinner outside (weather permitting).

6:30 pm • Dinner can be purchased at the SJCC

"TIKKUN OLAM" (Repairing the World)

*Tikkun Olam – repairing the world – is an important Jewish value and responsibility. Join our panel discussion on **TIKKUN OLAM IN THE WORKPLACE** and share your personal experiences on how to strive towards improving the world in our everyday life, whether you work in an office, a home, a laboratory or a store.*

Panel:

- Ian Kagedan, a Judge at Immigration and Refugee Review Board
- Paul Meyer – a Canadian diplomat who works on issues of arms control, disarmament and peace keeping.
- Paula Agulnik, the Director of R.E.A.C.H.

7:30 pm • Fee: \$2

We welcome your suggestions for young adult events and programming for singles.

To offer suggestions or for information about "Tikkun Olam" and the "Starlight Dinner" please call Maxine Miska • 798-9818, ext. 263.



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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE



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The shortage of water, a growing, worldwide problem, is especially severe in the arid and semi-arid areas of the world, of which Israel is a part. Shortage of water is probably the most crucial environmental problem facing Israel today and it is aggravated by the deteriorating quality of existing water resources that are even now, at the present population level, overused.

Even though Israel has one of the lowest water consumption rates in the world, it still uses over 99 percent of its available water resources. At the current rate of consumption, Israel will soon have an ever-growing water deficit. The water shortage will not only affect Israel, but its neighbours Syria and Jordan as well, all of whom utilize the same water sources.

The future of Israel's water supply depends on the country's ability to develop new sources of water utilizing every available drop of rainwater and recycling waste water.

Keren Kayemeth L'Israel is one of the major forces working to improve Israel's water economy, building dams to harvest floodwaters and reservoirs both for rainwater and waste water.

Fresh water reservoirs serve many purposes: irrigation, fish breeding and recreation, while by just being there they play a major role in replenishing Israel's depleted aquifers (underground water pools). No less important are reservoirs for recycled waste water that can be used for agriculture, one of the mainstays of the Israeli economy.

... or participate in the creation of Yitzhak Rabin Park

Yitzhak Rabin Park extends across some 400 acres from Nahshon and Beke'a in the Judean Plain on the west to the Forgers of the Jerusalem Road Memorial in the Jerusalem Hills on the east.

The park integrates chapters of Yitzhak Rabin's legacy with a variety of educational and recreational activities in an area replete with natural, historical and cultural heritage. The area is truly fitting for the establishment of a park in Yitzhak Rabin's memory: this was the area Rabin fought in as commander of the Palmach's Harel Brigade to break the siege over Jerusalem in Israel's War of Independence. Most of the park lies in the Judean plain, in the Sha'ar HaGai area, with the remainder in the Judean foothills and hills overlooking the Tel-Aviv-Jerusalem highway. This is probably one of the most historically varied areas in the country. Ancient terraces and agricultural remains dating back to biblical times, vestiges of a Roman road, Byzantine and Ottoman structures and the heroic heritage of the fierce battles fought here to forge an alternate route to besieged Jerusalem in 1948, blend to create a fascinating historical tapestry.

Golden Book inscription

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ON SEPTEMBER 27, the Ottawa Jewish Community turned out in force in front of the Iranian Embassy to protest the appeals verdict for the 10 Jewish prisoners held in Iran. The cantors led the group in singing Am Israel Chai and the rabbis prayed for those imprisoned.

History of Ottawa's Jewish cemeteries

The community is invited to hear Israel Shinder speak about the history of the Ottawa Jewish Cemeteries at a meeting of the Ottawa Jewish Historical Society (OJHS) on Wednesday, October 25. The event will take place at Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue at 7:30 pm.

Over the last three

decades, Shinder has devoted his time to Agudath Israel, where he has been a member since 1957, and to the cemeteries. His many responsibilities included chairing the search



Israel Shinder

committee for the new ceme-

tery and serving as chair for its first 22 years. He also chaired the Bank Street Cemetery Committee from 1986 to 1995.

Shinder emigrated to Ottawa from Romania via Montreal in 1930. After

finishing school, he joined his father's clothing and dry goods store, Royal Furnishings, on Rideau Street. After serving with the RCAF for four years during the war, he rejoined his father's business. In the mid-50s, in conjunction with his late brother-in-law, Manny Lightstone, he started Ambico Limited which manufactures doors.

New Communications Coordinator appointed

Rebecca Holzman has been named the new Communications Coordinator for the Vaad Ha'Ir with responsibilities for several key departments including: the Jewish Students Association, the Israel Experience Centre, the Shoah Remembrance Committee, Shalom Ottawa and the Multiple Appeals

Committee. She will also assist Alyce Baker, director of communications, in the areas of community relations and human resources.

Previous to this position, Rebecca served as program co-ordinator for the Institute for International Affairs, B'nai Brith Canada, based in Toronto. She holds a BA

(Honours) from the University of Ottawa, a BEd from the University of Toronto and a Certificate in Jewish Studies Education. She has prior experience as a high school English teacher and a Hebrew and Jewish Studies teacher.

Rebecca Holzman



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ISRAEL

Reliving the legend

A new museum wins international acclaim for its design

By Ruth Heiges

After nearly a decade in design and construction, *Beit Hapalmach*, the *Palmach* History Museum, located next to the Land of Israel Museum in Tel Aviv, has finally opened its doors. The aim of the museum, explains Ilan Lev, director of the museum, is to give a sense of the period which led to the founding of the state.

"Since January 1, when the museum opened its doors to the public, over 10,000 people have seen the exhibit," Lev says.

While Israel is not short of museums and monuments dedicated to the creation of the state and those who fought for it, this museum is outstanding. The full complex has not yet been completed; a 450-seat auditorium, a lecture hall, a library, archives, an exhibition hall, a memorial and a cafeteria are to be added as soon as funds become available. However,

the museum is already being cited for its architectural importance, and was even featured in the March 1999 edition of *Domus*, a leading Italian architecture journal, which hailed the design as "totally integrated into the natural landscape and topography, a design language that seems to fuse the ideals of the *Palmach* with local materials."

The *Palmach* was the strike force of the *Haganah*, the pre-state underground defence organization which was eventually incorporated into the Israel Defense Forces after 1948. Though it existed for only seven years, the values which the *Palmach* promoted - mutual responsibility, assistance, sacrifice and contribution to the greater good - are legendary in the annals of Israel's history and society.

Appropriately, the main exhibit takes place underground, in a series of cham-

bers. Groups of 25 visitors, led by a guide, begin the tour at a memorial to the fallen. The next room is a scale version of Tel Aviv's Herzl Street in 1941. Here, the multi-media experience begins, with a newsreel of the war in Europe projected onto the street scene. This sets the stage for the formation of the *Palmach*, which was created to deal with two threats: the advance of the German army towards Egypt, and attacks by hostile Arabs on the Jewish community.

Moving into the next chamber, one is in a eucalyptus grove at night. Here, a movie is projected onto an entire wall, introducing the visitor to a fictional unit of seven new *Palmach* recruits meeting with their commander for training orientation. The story of these characters carries the visitors throughout the rest of the program, which lasts over one hour.



VIRTUAL REALITY: A *Palmach* training unit on a desert cliff

(Courtesy: WZPS/SammyAvnisan)

Over time, the unit gains training and experience, and personalities emerge. Some are assigned to blow up bridges, others to lead supply convoys to Jerusalem or to bring in immigrant ships. The visitor watches as they expectantly listen to the UN vote on the fate of the country, as they battle through the War of Independence, and as they express their grief at the gravesides of those who did

not make it. Remarkably realistic sets, sounds, lighting, special effects and even moving rooms make the visitor feel part of this extraordinary experience.

The museum was designed by architects Zvi Hecker and Rafi Segal. As Hecker is currently based in Berlin, German students of architecture have been showing up at the museum. "I tell them they will not be able to

understand a word, because the entire program is currently in Hebrew," explains Karkom Rosenstein, the guiding coordinator. "But, they insist on going in, in spite of the language problem, and the fact that they have absolutely no connection to this experience. Afterwards, they tell me, 'We didn't understand a word, but we felt everything.'"

(Source: Israel Information Center)

"A promise fulfilled"

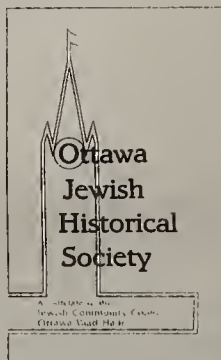
The Ottawa Jewish Historical Society is pleased to announce the completion of the digital transfer of the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* editions dating from 1937 to the present.

With this new database, one may now access all of Ottawa Jewish history as reported by the *Bulletin* with the click of a button.

This transfer marks the initial phase of the "Ottawa Jewish Archives Heritage Database". The project has been funded with the help of many of our Historical Society supporters, and an assist from the Canada Millennium Partnership Program.

In honour of this occasion, we invite you to come and experience this archival achievement on **Thursday, October 19, 2000** in the Social Hall of the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private at 7:30 pm.

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Multiple Appeals MAC — Committee — 798-4696 x 234

MAC FACTS

"MAC APPROVED" - Basic Principles and Guidelines (Abridged Version)

What does "MAC approved" mean?

A campaign which is Multiple Appeals Committee (MAC) approved meets all the requirements of the Multiple Appeals Policy and will be listed as approved in the Bulletin MAC column. This list will serve to notify other organizations of approved campaigns and to publicize them to the community.

Who needs approval?

All organizations are required to submit an Annual Fund-Raising Plan (AFP) which contains all planned fund-raising events for that organization; some events do not require written approval from MAC but must still be included in the AFP. The general rule is that all organizations engaged in fund-raising must first obtain written approval from MAC for each activity. Exceptions are those with:

- gross targets under \$25,000 (where an AFP that includes the event has already been submitted);
- membership campaigns where the primary purpose is payment for provision of services;
- campaigns that raise more than 80% of their funds outside the Jewish community;
- grandfathered campaigns.

MAC will list all approved campaigns and all campaigns not requiring approval about which MAC has been notified in the Bulletin on an ongoing basis.

Who is grandfathered?

Fund-raising events which have occurred regularly for more than 10 years will be considered grandfathered and do not require MAC approval. (e.g. Israel Bond Appeals, the JNF dinner, Hadassah-WIZO fashion show, etc.)

Limits and deadlines

Organizations may have up to one fund-raising activity with a target between \$25,000 and \$100,000 each year (other than grandfathered activities) and will be expected to submit their application at least 90 days before the activity.

UJA Campaign Window

The United Jewish Appeal has an exclusive annual "Campaign Window," from September 15 to November 30. During this time no fund-raising other than grandfathered activities may take place.

Major campaigns

Major or capital campaigns (objective of \$100,000 or more) will be permitted only once every five years for any organization, with two exceptions: grandfathered activities and synagogue campaigns where at least 90% of the objective will come from the membership. Up to two local and one other major/capital campaign will be allowed in each year.

MAC approved (as of September 12, 2000)

- Soloway JCC, Community Sports Dinner, November 29, 2000
- Beth Shalom West, Jewish Music Concert Souvenir Booklet, December 4, 2000
- Yitzhak Rabin HS, Chanukah Ball Ad Book, December 16, 2000
- Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University, Theatre Evening at the NAC, April 22, 2001
- Hillel Academy, Tribute Dinner, May 15, 2001

The policy sets out guidelines, criteria and limits relating to the magnitude and scheduling of campaigns. For a copy of the Policy, call the Vaad MAC staff person, Rebecca Holzman (798-4696 ext. 234).

NEXT MONTH: THE COMPOSITION OF MAC
AND HOW IT FUNCTIONS



Leon Bronstein
Chair

Raising the standard

A flag-making business with a rich history

By Chana Falik

To most of us, flags are synonymous with passions of patriotism and independence. To Yitzhak Berman, flags mean an endless diversity of people and causes, as well as a deep pride in upholding top standards of customer service.

Berman's Flags and Embroidery was founded in 1946 by Yitzhak's parents, Hela and Kalman Berman, refugees from war-torn Poland. Possessing a little knowledge of embroidery, they set up a small business on Hefzi Hamalka Street in Jerusalem; Hela was the seamstress and businesswoman, and her husband brought in new orders.

Flag-making started quite by accident, Yitzhak recalls. "One day, around the time of the declaration of statehood [in 1948], a man poked his head inside the doorway. 'Can you sew Stars of David onto flags?' he asked. 'Sure,' answered my father. As it turned out, the man worked with the newly established government, and brought my father a large order of flags. Since then, the orders haven't stopped coming."

When the pressure became too great, the Bermans hired another seamstress, and later their two children, Yitzhak and Ruti,

joined the business. The small store gradually became more and more crowded with sewing machines, irons, hanging racks and other equipment. Passersby would often see flags drying on racks on the pavement outside. Eventually, the family moved the main flag-making operation into two large rented halls in an industrial warehouse. The original store, however, still houses a Berman's Flags salesroom.

Today Berman's employs 19 workers, including five Berman family members. Yitzhak is in charge of new orders and customer relations. As he lists the names of organizations making up their clientele, there is a twinkle in his eye.

"It's an interesting porridge. We've made flags for *Dor Shalom* (the Peace Generation), and for *Shalom Im Hagolan* (Peace with the Golan). We've made flags for the 'Women in Green' and for 'Hebron is Forever', at the same time as we made flags for 'Land for Peace'. During the elections we made flags for the 'Labor Party, for the Likud, and many other political parties. We also make the flags for the Palestinian Authority."

Yitzhak is proud of the parade of customers with divergent political aims into



BERMAN'S has been making flags for 52 years.

(Photo: courtesy WZPS/Yitzhak Berman)

his office. Politics, however, doesn't get past the front door. When asked if any of his customers ever protest and chide him for his policy of serving all, he replies, "Yes, one person did. But I told him that if I didn't make a flag for them, someone else would."

To date, Berman's has made flags of 122 countries, for government and diplomatic functions. Yitzhak recalls the legendary visit of then-President of Egypt Anwar Sadat to Israel in 1979. "We were given two days to

make thousands of flags. At the time, Egypt belonged to a confederation with Libya and Syria, and all three countries shared the same flag. As the flags were being hung along the welcoming route, one sharp-eyed municipal worker who knew Arabic said, 'Hey, wait! These flags have the word 'Libya' on them!' We took back all the flags and replaced 'Libya' with 'Egypt'. It was a complicated job, but we finished it on time.

(Source: Israel Information Center)

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ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Lodge grand opening celebrates completion of the Community Campus

(Continued from page 1)

berg was appreciative of her dedication. "I applaud you and your committee for all your superb efforts to make this event so successful," she said. She also expressed her admiration for the late Sylvia Goldblatt, a past president of Hillel Lodge, who years ago had the vision to plan for a new facility.

In his D'Var Torah, Rabbi Arnold Fine reminded the audience of the commandment to honour one's parents. The new facility is a tribute to the Jewish tradition, he said. "Today we dedicate a place of love and caring for our elderly. May this building be a haven for all that is good in Judaism."

As Greenberg introduced the numerous dignitaries present, both on the platform and in the audience, she pointed out that "literally hundreds of people have worked for years to make this happen. Our founders, our wise board members, our devoted auxiliaries, the families, the donors, staff, community leaders, all deserve the accolades." In the audience, Greenberg pointed out Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray, MP Mac Harb, MPPs Richard Patten and Garry Guzzo, local councillor Linda Davis, past Ottawa Mayors Jacquelin Holzman and Jim Watson, Gloucester Mayor Claudette Cain, and Russell Mills, publisher of the

Ottawa Citizen.

Although the building had only been opened for one week and not all residents had yet moved in, there was already a waiting list. "If you build it, they will come" has never had more meaning, because the lodge is full - 100% capacity," said Greenberg.

Lodge residents Betty Liebhoff and Harry Torontow, accompanied by Rabbi Mitchell Cohen, affixed the Mezuzah to the doorpost of the building as the Beth Shalom Men's Choir and the five community chazzanim, Yair Subar, Stephen Chaiet, Pinchas Levinson, Daniel Benlolo and David Aptowitz, sang. Benlolo introduced "Mizmor Shir Chanukat HaBayit" as a traditional song for dedicating a new home. The Beth Shalom Youth Choir performed during the ceremony as well.

Roger Greenberg, chair of the Community Capital Campaign, reminisced about the time, six years ago, when the consultant hired to do a feasibility study for the community concluded that our community capacity was \$13million - enough to build either the JCC or Hillel Lodge, but not both. "Look what we have accomplished in the last six years," he said. "It's really unbelievable and we should all be very proud of what we have achieved."

The Hon. John Baird, Ontario's Minister of Community and Social Services, brought greetings on behalf of Premier Mike Harris and the government. "Long term care is a major priority of our government," he said. On a personal note, he added: "Perhaps the greatest reward for everyone who worked so hard on this project will be the smiles on the faces of the seniors who will enjoy this facility."

Speaking not only as a politician, but as a neighbour, Regional Chair Bob Chiarelli noted: "I live only a few blocks from here and have seen this campus grow, so on behalf of the neighbourhood, welcome," he said.

"It is just amazing what you have done and how much you have contributed to our community," said Acting Mayor of Ottawa Allan Higdon, "and I congratulate and thank you."

Stephen Greenberg, president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaud Ha'ir, likened the dream of the complete Community Campus to the Zionist dream of Theodore Herzl. "If you will it, it is no dream," said Herzl. "While our dream wasn't as difficult to achieve as Herzl's," said Greenberg, "it was a huge undertaking. We have finally completed the realization of that dream. It is a wonderful testament to the power of a shared

dream."

Said Stephen Schneiderman, executive director of the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge: "A miracle is the manifestation of goodness into action. This building is now more than a dream, it is a miracle."

Melane Hetz, president of the Lodge board of directors, thanked all who had been involved in making the day a success. With excitement and fanfare, Inez Zelikovitz and Bess Greenberg cut the ribbon and led the crowd into the building for refreshments and guided tours.



RABBI MITCHELL COHEN, accompanied by Lodge residents Betty Liebhoff and Harry Torontow, affixes the Mezuzah to the doorpost of the building. (Photo: Randy Stille)



CARRYING IN THE TORAHs which were transferred from the Wurttemberg Street location to the new chapel.

(Photo: Robin Chernick)

With the conclusion of the ceremony, the Jewish Community Campus is now complete.

What some thought was impossible has become a reality and a shining example of what can be achieved

by people with vision and determination. What a wonderful way to start the new year!

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ARTS ALIVE

in Celebration of Jewish Book Month

November 11 and 12

Soloway Jewish Community Centre

Here's a sneak preview of what to expect ...

• **ADAIA AND ABRAHAM SHUMSKY (Co-authors)**

The book "A Bridge Across the Jordan" is the true story of a most improbable, inspirational friendship between Abdullah, the King of Jordan and Adaia's father, Mendel Cohen, a humble carpenter from Jerusalem. Come and hear the Shumskys relate this amazing story about this unique eleven-year relationship that overcame bitter divisions, fierce enmities and religious differences. Presented by the Soloway JCC and the Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program of Ottawa-Carleton.



• **GABRIELLA GOLIGER (Author)**

Local author, Gabriella Goliger, shares her newest work of fiction *Song of Ascent*, which explores the relationships, experiences and struggles of the lives of Ernst and Hannah Birnbaum, displaced German Jews living in Montreal who cannot escape the shadow of the Holocaust. She has twice been nominated for the Journey Prize, and in 1997 was a co-winner of the award.



• **SCOTT BLAKEMAN (Comedian)**

He's doubled them over on *The Late Show with David Letterman* and A&E's *Evening at the Improv*, co-hosted the NBC series *Funny People* and taken south Florida by storm with his 21-show tour. Look out Ottawa, stand-up comic, Scott Blakeman, promises to bring down the house with his comedic stick at Arts Alive.



• **IRENE WATTS (Author)**

Author, Irene Watts will engage both children and adults with stories based on her experiences and that of other refugee children who emigrated from Berlin to Britain on a "Kindertransport" just prior to the Second World War. Author of the two-time award-winner, *Good-bye Marianne* and *Remember Me*, she is a storyteller, playwright, drama consultant and director who has worked in Canada and Europe. Her plays have been produced by The Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, The Stratford Festival in Ontario and The Neptune Theatre in Halifax.



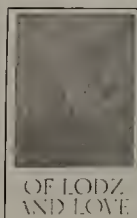
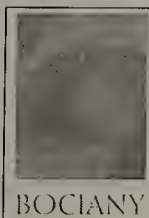
• **SHELTOONS (Cartoon Creators Extraordinaire)**

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• **CHAVA ROSENFARB (Author)**

Chava Rosenfarb was born in Lodz, Poland. She is a survivor of the Lodz Ghetto, as well as, the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps. She is also the recipient of numerous literary prizes including the Manger Prize, the highest award for Yiddish literature for her book, *The Tree of Life*. She will speak about her two novels depicting shtetl life, *Bociany* and its sequel *Of Lodz and Love*.



BUT THAT'S NOT ALL ... there's more to come ... entertainment for children of all ages, giftware and Judaica showcases, refreshments and hundreds of books on Jewish history, culture, and traditions available for purchase supplied by SFARIM of Montreal.

Stay tuned ...

For information and tickets, call Rhona Levine at 798-9818, ext. 253.

The Centre of Your Life



ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Mother of all transfers

The life and work of Sharon Sholzberg Gray – Part 2

By Sharon Abron Drache

In first-year law at McGill, Sharon Sholzberg-Gray was considered a dilettante, until she stood first in her class of approximately 75. The Montreal papers wrote a story about her – "Woman leads first-year law at McGill, hlah, blah," she says unassumingly. Despite all her successes, she was and still is genuinely modest.

Sholzberg-Gray calls leading first year law at McGill a milestone, because it made people respect her ability, even though she was female, and this is why the metaphor, mother of all transfers continues to be so apt, especially when one considers Sholzberg-Gray's current post as one of the key players in *healthcare* through her non-partisan advocacy.

In second-year law (1964-65) Sholzberg-Gray stood third. But during that year, she represented the law students on the McGill student council. She began doing things she had never thought possible, a great deal of public speaking, in particular leading the fight on campus to win her the election as the first female president of the McGill student council in 1965-66. Her academic standing dropped from third to 15th during that very busy third year of law, while her achievements as student council president drew accolades for which she is still remembered.

It was in 1965-66 that the idea of non-partisan dawned on her. "I was political in that I was president of the entire McGill student body, but that was because of my academic and administrative abilities, not because I was a Liberal or because I was female. Today, I am in a similar position because I am married to the deputy prime minister, yet I am a non-partisan advocate on behalf of the Canadian Healthcare Association."

Sharon Sholzberg ran an activist student government



Herb Gray and Sharon Sholzberg-Gray with the Honourable Paul Martin (1969).

back in 1965-66. Among the progressive issues she dealt with were human and civil rights, including demonstrations supporting the Selma, Alabama march advocating equal rights for Blacks and protest marches against the war in Vietnam. But Sholzberg wanted students to be activist in practical ways also. She organized a social development committee whose members did volunteer work in poverty-stricken areas of the city, visited hospitals and tutored in high schools.

Sholzberg also advocated for students to have representation on the senate and board of governors of McGill (commonplace nowadays, but innovative then). But her most controversial achievement proved to be a student council decision resulting in McGill leaving the Canadian Union of Students (CUS) and joining the Union générale des étudiants de Québec (UGEQ). "The students at McGill held a referendum overturning the student council initiative – they absolutely did not wish

to join a unilingual French student union," Sholzberg-Gray intones.

Enter Melanie Sholzberg-Gluss, Sholzberg-Gray's kid sister, who claims Sharon never treated her like a kid – but always as an adult, who saw 1965-66 from a wide-eyed 10-year-old's point of view, when her oldest sibling (age 22) invited her to stay in the campus apartment made available to Sholzberg as president of the student union. "How many 22-year-old sisters would do that?" asks Melanie. "They wouldn't," she says, answering her own question.

"During the winter carnival, University of Montreal students kidnapped Sharon and the president of their own students' union," relates Melanie. "The University of Montreal president resisted, so they chloroformed him, knocked him out cold, but my sister, Sharon, being smart, said if she was going along, she would go awake. So she went willingly to Mount Royal where the two presidents of the student unions were handcuffed

together and the kidnappers played a symbolic wedding march. Patrick Macfadden, who was the editor of the *McGill Daily*, covered the event, and so did all the Montreal papers, as well as *Time* magazine."

Sharon Sholzberg has always used her maiden name as well as Gray since her 1967 marriage, because it is a tradition for Quebec-trained lawyers to do so, but she also wishes people to remember her from her heady days as a student leader at McGill. "I see my colleagues that I met in 1965-66 in positions of leadership across the country." She mentions a few, Peter Herndorf (currently CEO of the National Arts Centre), Serge Menard (cabinet minister, Parti Québécois), the list goes on ...

After marrying Herb Gray at the Chevra Kadisha B'nai Jacob synagogue in Montreal during Canada's centennial summer (on July 23, 1967) and settling in Ottawa as well as in the city of Windsor (her husband's

riding is Windsor West), thus running two households instead of one as the young wife of an elected federal politician, Sholzberg-Gray still found time to attend Ottawa University. By the summer of 1968, she obtained a master's degree in administrative and constitutional law, and immediately set to work on doctoral studies in constitutional law (1968-1970).

Then came the years of having children, Jonathan, born in 1971 and Elizabeth in 1974. With two children so close in age, Sholzberg-Gray still did not take very much time off from her chosen profession. She did however begin to transfer many of her superior abilities into directions that would allow her to stay at home during the formative years of raising a young family. Here's where the broad usage of Sholzberg-Gray's own coined term, "association manager" comes into play, superbly defining the arduous role of politician's wife meshed with her own dogged determination to

maintain her well-earned professional status. She became active on a part-time basis in the Privy Council Office in 1970-71 as the community representative on a working group established to develop proposals for implementing recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

In 1981-82, Sholzberg-Gray worked as a project director at the National Legal Aid Research Centre at the University of Ottawa, setting up an ongoing national legal aid statistics program. And Sholzberg-Gray reminds that she continued to be involved part-time in legal work from 1967-80 through her association with a Montreal law firm.

The years 1983 through 1989 saw Sholzberg-Gray serve as CEO of MATCH, a non-government organization which focuses on improving the legal status and living conditions of women living in developing countries. "How can you be educated if you are worried about where your next meal is coming from?" says Sholzberg-Gray of one of her major concerns while managing the Match International Centre here in Ottawa.

At age 17, Melanie Sholzberg-Gluss moved to Ottawa to live with the Grays, when their son Jonathan was a year old. She was beginning her studies in science at Carleton University, while Sharon had completed the courses for her doctorate in law, and was associated on a part-time basis with a Montreal law firm, and Herb Gray, as the minister of national revenue, was getting a great deal of public attention as a result of his trail-blazing report on foreign ownership. Almost immediately, Melanie had a practical lesson which made her realize, "It was not an easy life – being a political family, and I could see how much you had to live it to the

(Continued on page 15)

ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Mother of all transfers

The life and work of Sharon Sholzberg Gray – Part 2

(Continued from page 14)

fullest in order to be a part of it."

Melanie dove into the political thick of things, working for Herb Gray in his 1972 election campaign in Windsor for six weeks.

Through a glass darkly is a phrase which comes to mind, because the 1970s brought in a lot of new light for both Melanie and her sister, Sharon. By Melanie's own admission, because she participated at the beginning of her fall term in her brother-in-law's political campaign, she did not obtain enough credits to pass first-year science.

Sholzberg-Glass concedes readily that this was the kind of adventure her sister Sharon would have easily managed, "but not me".

Melanie was ready to give up, quit Carleton, and return to Montreal, but Sharon said, "You are going back to university. You are not leaving this house." Sharon convinced Melanie that she had to shift focus, much as Sharon herself had switched from science to law.

When Melanie was in third-year psychology at Carleton, her brother-in-law brought home a cousin who was studying health admin-

istration at the University of Ottawa. "He knew that I had expressed an interest in the health sector. Both Sharon and Herb urged me to apply. In 1978, I graduated with a master's in health administration – there were only four of us in the class."

When confronted with what Sholzberg-Gray says about learning all she knows about healthcare from her sister, Melanie says, "I cannot believe that my sister would say that about me, but she is very good, and very generous. Maybe I could have been of some influence, when I lived with Sharon – we did talk a lot about health issues."

Re-enter Sharon Sholzberg-Gray. In 1976, she attempted to get the Liberal nomination when John Turner gave up his Ottawa riding. "Should a wife run?" her fellow Liberals said, and in the end Sholzberg-Gray did not get the nomination. Her future political endeavours were etched in non-partisan stone.

The timing in 1976 just happened to coincide with Melanie's enrolment in health administration at the University of Ottawa, so when Sholzberg-Gray says that she learned everything she knew initially about

health issues via osmosis from her sister, one understands what she means.

When the position of CEO of the Long Term Care Association came up, Sholzberg-Gray was ready – she had served for five years as CEO of Match, and she had the added support of her close friend and colleague, her own sister, already established in the health sector.

Perhaps these coincidences appear too cozy, even synchronistic, but people who are close do work in this manner, especially within families, learning from each others' mistakes as well as successes, even changing course or transferring their skill-sets, when required.

Sharon Sholzberg-Gray and the Honourable Herb Gray are exemplary for this kind of symbiotic adaptation. As a long-standing political couple, they have carved out separate territories, while continuing to support one another. Can you think of two better persons working in tandem (he is partisan, she is not) to ensure the best-attainable Healthcare for Canadians in the 21st century?

Sharon Abron Drache is an Ottawa author and journalist. Her most recent book is *The Golden Ghetto*.



SHARON SHOLZBERG-GRAY and the Honourable Herb Gray with their children, Elizabeth, 26 and Jonathan, 29.

Newcomers Tea to be held on November 12

The Ladies Reception Committee for Newcomers will hold its 88th tea on Sunday, November 12, at the home of Rena Cohen.

The Newcomer Teas continue a tradition inspired by Beatrice Hock 43 years ago.

Her concern that no newcomer should be friendless and alone in a strange community led to the formation of a group of 18 volunteers ("Chai") who would help ease the transition by hosting one tea in the fall and one in the


spring for women new to the Jewish community.

Guests at the teas are welcomed and introduced to one another.

Community bulletins, lists of organizations within the community and details of activities and

programs for adults and children are made available.

If you are a woman, new to the Jewish community, or know of someone who has moved to Ottawa, call Roslyn Smolkin (828-0332).



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BOOK REVIEW

Anthology comprises diverse revelations of the human spirit

The Best American Essays 1999

Edited by Edward Hoagland.
Houghton Mifflin.
297 Pages. \$13.00

Reviewed by Arnold Ages

In this epoch of over-priced hard cover books this anthology of the best American essays of the last year of the millennium is the bargain of the year 2000.

Twenty-five journalists, novelists and essayists have contributed amazingly diverse revelations of the human spirit and the only thing that unites them is the excellence of the prose styles deployed.

The subject matter is far-ranging and includes, among other things: the seedy side of journalism (Charles Bowden), a South Carolina rustic hero (Franklin Burroughs), the travail of a summer camp counsellor (Brian Doyle), the Lion and The Wizard of Oz (John Lahr), and a visit to a New Jersey penitentiary (Joyce Carol Oates).

If forced to the judgment bar I would have to choose Brian Doyle's "The Meteorites" as the outstanding work in a group of very fine essays. Here Doyle writes unpretentiously yet poetically of a summer camp experience in which he learned the lessons of

compassion towards the young boys in his charge.

It is noteworthy that several of the essays deal either directly or tangentially with Jews, Judaism and Jewish culture.

André Aciman's "In Search of Proust" narrates the writer's (he is a professor at Bard College and the author of an autobiography about his Jewish roots in Egypt) visit to Illiers-Combray, the town in France which Proust described so beautifully in his "In Search of Past Time".

There in the company of other Proust enthusiasts (idolaters would be a more accurate word) and an expert guide, Aciman tried to soak up the ambience of the houses, restaurants and gardens which the great French-Jewish writer frequented. Aciman lades out several dollops of humour in his essay as he describes how 2,000 madeleine pastries (the eating of which triggered Proust's voluminous memories) are sold each month by pastry shops in Illiers-Combray. "Luckily I was able to resist temptation," he writes, "all the

pastry shops were closed."

There is no levity in Annie Dillard's "For The Time Being" - a profound meditation on what theologians call theodicy, the problem of evil in a world ostensibly under God's beneficent supervision. Dillard situates her essay in the suffering of Rahhi Akiva whose death in 135 C.E. was precipitated by unimaginable tortures. The noble rabbi maintained his composure and faith up until the end and taught his disciples, "Whatever the all-mereful does he does for the good."

Contrasting this affirmation with Voltaire's ridiculing of the same concept in "Candide", Dillard ranges across the theological spectrum as she explores the contradictions inherent in all explanations of evil and includes in her survey, Isaac Luria's cabalistic view that God contracted Himself - *zimzum* - "to make room for a finite world" in which "Evil became possible."

From Luria and the cabalists Dillard moves on to Buber and Teilhard de Chardin through the Bal Shem Tov to a 1976 earthquake in Tangshan in which 75,000 people were killed. Can this inexplicable event yield to Rabbi Yehuda

Aryeh Leih Alter of Ger's view that "once the holy sparks are released, evil, having lost its life-giving core, will cease to exist."

In a stunning contribution of her own to the discussion of theodicy, Dillard says: "Perhaps, and at best, God knows nothing of these temporal accidents, but knows souls only. This God does not direct the universe, he underlies it." Using the expression "out of the loop" and its many variants, Dillard quotes Rabbi Lawrence Kushner as she reviews the idea that God is not omnipotent and that prayer is irrelevant. Nonetheless she ends her wonderful essay with the famous shehechyanu benediction.

Annie Dillard's penetrating interrogation of theodicy may be contrasted with Cynthia Ozick's scholarly and challenging discourse on the Book of Job, that Biblical record that

tries poignantly if unsuccessfully to answer Dillard's questions. In the sweep of her inquiry, Ozick deploys the expert's acquaintance with the linguistic problems of the text, the appearance of Hebrew Satan and the sourcing of Job in the wisdom literature of antiquity.

Ozick's Job is Aeschylus-like and Shakespearean in the contours of its language and theatrical composition. Job is the Promethean hero, a blameless man subjected to unspeakable tragedy. Job's rage, she says is "a rage against the loathsomeness of wisdom." His confrontation with his accusers is the drama of conventional theology - in which suffering must be traced to sinfulness. But Job will have none of that equation: he is innocent.

It is clear that Ozick likes Job: she asserts that he is of prophetic stalk, a

self-starter. But in a way, he goes beyond the prophets; they diagnose the evil of men. "Job seeks to rectify God. His is an ambition higher, deeper, vaster, grander than theirs." And what of the divine? Ozick is not happy with God's profile; He steps into the drama "without having consulted the script - none of it... He does not remember Satan's mischief. He does not remember Job's calamities. He does not remember Job's righteousness."

Ozick's reading of the answer which Job does receive from God is that human beings must not devise their image of the divine "out of our own malaise, or complaint, or desire, or hope, or imagining... The ways of God cannot be penetrated." And yet Ozick is the persistent protester. "Yet Job's question toils on, manifest in the

(Continued on page 23)

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COLUMNS

Israel News, quick scans or in depth

You can keep up with Israeli news in 15 to 20 minutes a day. Or you can also follow a few major stories in depth, and see a variety of interpretations. This column will deal with both approaches.

To scan Israeli news every day (except Shabbat) I use two daily e-mail digests from the Israeli government. One is "Israel Line", a summary from the Israeli media. The other provides extracts of Israeli editorials.

Subscribe to these digests by going to the *Israeli Foreign Ministry* site (<http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/home.asp>). Click on "Our Mailing Lists" in the top left corner, and follow instructions.

On the day in mid-September when I wrote this column, "Israel Line" ran digests of five main stories and an economic roundup. Two leads dealt with Israeli-Palestinian developments. Other digests dealt with new laws approved by the Cabinet, the removal of nationality information from identity cards, and Bedouin local elections.

The latest editorial e-mail provided eight extracts from four Israeli newspapers. All eight dealt with domestic matters. There were two contrasting views on each of the following: the Israeli budget, Prime Minister Barak's reform plans, and truckers protesting fuel prices. There were also pieces on the new head of the Antiquities Authority and criticism of public adulation of an Israeli swimmer who came eighth (last) at the Olympics.

To research Israeli news and other topics, the Foreign Ministry site itself is an excellent "Swiss army knife" portal, covering details of the news, linking to other material and press summaries, and serving as a search engine for archived material.

I also use "heavy duty" news websites "1stHeadlines" (<http://www.1stheadlines.com/>) and "Yahoo! News Full Cov-

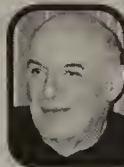
erage" (http://daily.news.yahoo.com/full_coverage/). These are news portals, gateways to many different news sources. They are not, in themselves, Israeli sources, but provide in-depth coverage, using material from Israeli and other media.

"1stHeadlines" is particularly useful for following hot topics, since the day's stories are frequently updated. The home page shows the leading news stories from around the world. If there is an Israeli story, this will show in coverage from a few Israeli papers, and perhaps a few wire services and other international sources (e.g. the *New York Times* or the BBC).

The left hand frame of the main page has links that open up key links, including ones for news about most countries. When you open the Israeli link, you usually get a few dozen news stories on the day's topics. This is the best way to get wider coverage. The day I prepared this column, I found 31 Israeli stories, and the sources included an Israeli wire service and two Israeli dailies.

"Yahoo! News Full Coverage" follows a few specific news stories in great detail. The home page lists stories in a number of categories. Israeli news usually appears in the "top news" or "international" category. This site has headlined an Arab-Israeli relations story every time I've looked at it in the past few years. You can also find the Tel Aviv stock index by clicking on stock exchanges in the main financial category and then opening a list of links to international exchanges.

When you click on any link on Full Coverage's home

Global Shtetl
The Jewish Internet

Saul Silverman

page, it takes you to a page for that story. The main part of this page has two sets of links. First comes various sources' coverage of the news story, from the latest to less recent versions. Below these are related websites that provide background information and analysis.

On the left are categories for different types of material. On top is a set of news sources, including full texts of newspapers. For example, you can find the latest daily *Ha'aretz* (English translation) and *Jerusalem Post*, as well as three or four other Israeli sources, and general and Arab outlets. There are also links to audio-video news, editorial and opinion pieces, magazine articles, related discussion fora and related Yahoo! topics. All the news and more!

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COLUMNS

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Soup to Nuts

Donna Karlin

Here is a wonderful fall menu. The salmon has a wonderful citrusy flavour and melts in your mouth.

The cold Chinese noodles pack a punch from the hot red pepper and the vegetables add texture and colour.

The dessert is a combination of sweet and tart providing a perfect ending to the meal.



Citrus Salmon Fillets

- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh dill
- 4 cloves minced garlic
- 1 1/2 tsp olive oil
- 3 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 2 cups fresh orange juice (not from concentrate)
- 6 salmon fillets
- 6 tbsp slivered toasted almonds
- 6 lemon slices

Blend all the ingredients except the salmon and almonds together. Coat bottom of baking dish with half the mixture. Place fillets in baking dish and spoon the rest of the mixture over the fish. Top with the almonds; cover with foil and bake in a 375° oven for 20 minutes. Remove foil, place the lemon slices on top and bake 5 more minutes. Can briefly put under a broiler if you like the fish to have a crisper texture. Serves 6.

Chinese Peppery Noodles with Vegetables

These noodles are served cold.

- 10 oz spaghetti noodles
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 2 tsp chili paste with garlic
- 2 cloves garlic puréed with
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes,
- 1/2 tsp sesame oil,
- and 1/2 tsp vinegar
- 1/3 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 2 tsp honey
- 1 tsp finely grated fresh ginger
- 1 sweet red pepper, sliced thinly
- 1/2 green pepper, sliced thinly
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 2 cups snow peas
- 3/4 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
- 3 tsp chopped cilantro
- 1 tsp sesame seeds

Boil the noodles in a very large pot of water until al dente. Drain the noodles in a colander and rinse in cold water. Toss the noodles with the sesame oil. Set them aside until they are needed. Combine chili paste, vinegar, soy sauce, sugar, and ginger in a bowl, mixing well. (If you're not eating the noodles soon, cover the bowl and place the dressing in the refrigerator. Be sure to have the dressing at room temperature before serving.) Slice the peppers into thin pieces, break broccoli into florets, and clean the snow peas. Wipe mushrooms clean with brush or damp cloth or paper towel and slice. Next blanch red and green pepper, broccoli, and snow peas in boiling water for 20 to 30 seconds. Drain into a colander and rinse under cold water. Drain the vegetables on paper towels. Place the cooled noodles in a serving dish and arrange vegetables attractively on top. Refrigerate the noodles and vegetables until ready to serve. (The dish will keep perfectly covered in the refrigerator for 24 hours except slice and top with mushrooms just before serving.)

Just before serving, spoon the soy-vinegar mixture over the

vegetables and noodles, garnishing with cilantro and sesame seeds. Serves 6.

Cranberry Apple Tartie Tatin

- 1 recipe Pate Sucrée (sweet pastry dough)
- 5 large apples
- Juice of one lemon
- 4 tbsp butter
- 3/4 cup plus 1 tbsp sugar
- 1/3 cup cranberries



Make the dough. Form into a 5" disk, wrap in plastic and chill one hour, or up to 3 days. Remove the dough from the refrigerator and on a lightly floured surface, roll it to a 12" circle. Brush off any excess flour. Place the round on a sheet lined with wax or parchment paper, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to use. Preheat oven to 400°. Peel, core and slice each apple in half. Slice each half in 3 sections and toss the apples in lemon juice. Set aside.

Melt the butter, sugar and 1/4 tsp lemon juice together in a 10" ovenproof skillet or heavy pie pan. Cook, stirring, until the mixture turns a light caramel colour. Be careful not to overcook; it will continue to darken from the heat in the pan. Remove from heat. Arrange the apple slices, rounded side down, in a circle in the caramelized syrup around the skillet and in the centre. Scatter the cranberries between the slices. You'll have enough slices to stack them 2 deep.

Remove the dough from the refrigerator and centre it over the skillet. Using scissors, trim the circle so that it overhangs 1/2" all around. Tuck the edge down between the apples and the skillet. Lightly brush the dough with cold water and sprinkle with 1 tbsp sugar. Bake about 40 minutes or until the pastry is golden brown.

Remove from oven and let sit on a cooling rack for 5 minutes. Place a serving dish over the skillet and flip the whole thing to invert the tart onto the plate. (Don't forget to put a potholder over the skillet handle!) Serve plain, with whipped or ice cream.

Note: For variation you can use brown sugar instead of granulated sugar in the pie. Use the granulated sugar on the crust.



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COLUMNS

A board book for Sukkot and non-fiction for Simchat Torah



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

Good children's books, whether updated or not, have a long shelf life because they are new to each generation of children. So I am especially pleased to review re-issues of two older books appropriate for Sukkot and Simchat Torah respectively.

Tamar's Sukkah

By Ellie Gellman

Pictures by Shauna Mooney Kawasaki
Kar-Ben Copies, Inc. 2000

Unpag'd Ages 1-4

This time out, *Tamar's Sukkah* has been published as a board book for very young children. This format means the book is small, its cover and pages thick so that little hands can hold it and turn the pages without parents being overly worried that the book will be torn or crushed.

Generally board books have one simple theme; *Tamar's Sukkah* stays true to that principle. Written as a cumulative story about cooperation, the book captures Tamar's joyous adventure in decorating her Sukkah and setting it up just right, with a little help from one older friend after another.

New, cheerful illustrations add to feelings of gladness as Tamar's sense of what a Sukkah needs and each friend's helpfulness shine through. A charming, can-do book for the very young.

Sofer: The Story of a Torah Scroll

By Rabbi Dr. Eric Ray

with Joel Lurie Grishaver & Jane Golub
Torah Aura Productions 1999

32 pps. Ages 6-10

On Simchat Torah kids can forget shuls' sha-shul rules and enjoy a singing, dancing, flag-waving, parading, apple-munching good time. But it is also an occasion when, just maybe, they catch their first glimpse of an open Torah scroll. For some children that first glimpse will be a moment of awe and beauty, a moment they will never forget.

It is that feeling of awe and beauty that Eric Ray, artist and master scribe, conveys in *Sofer: The Story of a Torah Scroll*. While I have a few criticisms of the book, its spirit of joy, holiness and creativity leaps from the page directly into readers' hearts and minds.

Essentially *Sofer* is an informative and inspiring story of how Eric Ray feels about and performs the most important part of his work as a Jewish artist, writing mezuzot, tefillin and the five books of Moses, the Torah scroll.

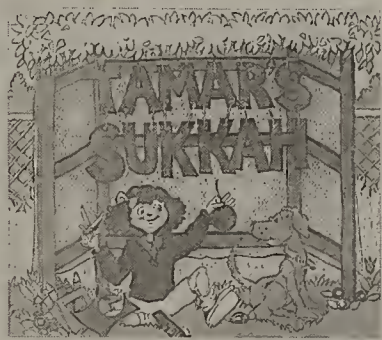
Ray begins with an unusual, highly personal introduction to the 22 letters of the Alef-Bet. How can an Alef-Bet be personalized? Eric Ray does it by describing the structure to each letter in human terms and associating it with an evocative Jewish value, object or occurrence.

For example, "... Alef looks like it is standing on one foot and reaching its hand up to God. ... It's a letter that dances." While "Vav looks like a shofar standing on the mouthpiece. I write a Vav and think about Rosh Hashanah and how the great shofar will sound when the Messiah comes."

And the letter Tav "... seems to teach you that you never really get to the end. ..." which is exactly what happens on Simchat Torah when we finish reading the last section of the Torah only to immediately start at the beginning again.

The next section of *Sofer* describes the intricacies of creating Judaism's holiest objects. Again, Ray includes information about the importance of the artist's feelings and thoughts while working on those objects as well as their history, symbolism and the laws that must be followed.

Readers learn about the materials and techniques, the recipe for kosher ink, and much much more, including why

From *Tamar's Sukkah*

a baby's bottle is used as the container for kosher ink, how to correct mistakes and the most efficient way to write God's holiest name.

As to my criticisms, they are a call for improved editing. The subtitle, *The Story of a Torah Scroll*, doesn't reflect the book's more extensive content. Headings should have been used throughout the text as a content guide for young readers. And while the coloured photographs are a welcome addition, some of the pictures need headings to more clearly convey their message.

Nevertheless, *Sofer: The Story of a Torah Scroll* is a book to treasure. It not only describes an artist's labour of love, it is a labour of love.

Wishing you and your family a joyous Sukkot and an inspiring Simchat Torah!

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Wishing Marda Cantor a speedy recovery by Max and Rena Cohen and family.

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Continued on page 21

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Yasher Koach to Morris Kimmel, Stephen Schneideman and the Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge for a job well done by the Vaad Ha'Ri, Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation, United Jewish Appeal and the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin.

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Mazal Tov to Max Zelikovitz on his special birthday by Cathy and Stan Levine, Mera and Michael.

ARNOLD AND ROSE LITWICK MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to Yvonne and Harvey Litwick on the engagement of their daughter Dahlia by Victor and Shirley Steinberg, and by Estelle and Sol Gunner.

SAMUEL AND LEEMA MAGIDSON ENDOWMENT FUND

Wishing Shirley Koffman a happy special birthday by Roz and Annie Kimmel and family.

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Roz and Annie Kimmel.

JACOB MALOMET MEMORIAL FUND

Best wishes to Fuzzy Teitelbaum on her birthday and wishing Fuzzy and Max a happy and healthy New Year by Diana and Alvin Malomet.

JEAN AND MAX NAEMARK ENDOWMENT FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of a dear mother-in-law and grandmother Betty Naemark by Jean Naemark and family.

MARTIN GLATT PARLIAMENT LOOGE

B'NAI BRITH PAST PRESIDENTS' FUND
In memory of Lawrence Cowan by Rose Sheman

NANCY AND LARRY PLEET ENDOWMENT FUND

Wishing Robyn Tavel a speedy recovery by Nancy and Larry Pleet.

BESSIE AND BENJAMIN POLOWIN MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of a dear son Howard Joel Polowin by Alex and Kathleen Polowin.

NORMAN AND EVELYN POTCHIN ENDOWMENT FUND

Best wishes to John and Fran Spink's in their new home by Evelyn and Norman Potchkin.

Mazal Tov to Mr. and Mrs. Chaim Davidson on their 1st

wedding anniversary and best wishes in their new home by aunt Evelyn and uncle Norman Potchkin.

Mazal Tov to Max Zelikovitz on his special birthday by Evelyn and Norman Potchkin.

GOLDIE AND ALBERT RIVERS ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

Mazal Tov to Jason Moskovitz on being honored by Hadasah WZO by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

Mazal Tov to Ann and Stan Goldberg on the engagement of their son Jason by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

Mazal Tov to Morris Cantor on his 2nd Bar Mitzvah by Goldie and Albert Rivers.

HERMAN AND ZELDA ROODMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Lawrence Cowan by Penny and Herman Roodman.

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Penny and Herman Roodman, and by Richard and Joy Karp.

RUTH SADAVA MEMORIAL FUND

Congratulations to Tara and Jayme Cogan on their marriage by William Bloom.

HELEN AND ROY SCAPE ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to Max Zelikovitz on his 90th birthday by Helen Scape.

SAMUEL AND LILLIAN SASLOVE MEMORIAL FUND

Best wishes to Fred and Esther Balon for a happy and healthy New Year by Dorothy and Maurie Karp and family.

Best wishes to aunt Betty Balon and family for a happy and healthy New Year by Dorothy and Maurie Karp and family.

Best wishes to Norma and Phil Lazear and family for a happy and healthy New Year by Dorothy and Maurie Karp and family.

GOLDIE AND MORRIS SHABINSKY MEMORIAL FUND

Wishing Eliezer and Bob Landau and family a happy and healthy New Year by Gloria and Barry Trainoff and family.

Wishing Laya and Sol Shabinsky and family a happy and healthy New Year by Gloria and Barry Trainoff and family.

DR. AND MRS. NATHAN SCHECHTER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Tesse Schechter by Rose and Chick Taylor.

SAMUEL AND LEA SCHREIBER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Marvin Schreiber by Mildred and Harold Cadloff and family, by Dr. and Mrs. David Rotenberg, and by Sol and Ina Sherman.

ABRAHAM AND MARY SHAFFER MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to Frances Shaffer on her special birthday by Meryl and Arthur Cole.

HARRY AND SYLVIA SHINDER MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to Ethel and David Malek on the birth of their granddaughter by Rose and Chick Taylor.

Mazal Tov to Debbie and Allan Malek on the birth of their daughter by Rose and Chick Taylor.

SHMELZER-HOROVITZ ENDOWMENT FUND

Best wishes to Anne Shmelzer on her special birthday by Stan and Vira Winthrop and family, and by Rhoda and Stan Hook.

Continued on page 22

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MOE AND CHARLOTTE SLACK MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to Benita and Don Langdon on the marriage of Tina to Brian by Marlene Levine and Andrew Siman.
In memory of Ethel Reid by Marlene Levine.
In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Marlene Levine and Andrew Siman.

HARRIET AND IRVING SLONE ENDOWMENT FUND

Best wishes to Harriet and Irving Slone and family for a happy and healthy New Year by Ethel and Irving Taylor.

JACK AND LINDA SMITH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Creative Kosher Catering by Jack Smith.

In memory of Dr. Aaron David Bernstein by Creative Kosher Catering by Jack Smith.

In memory of Ellen Fath's father by Creative Kosher Catering by Jack Smith.
Wishing Jack and Linda Smith and family a happy and healthy New Year by Clair and Julius Kunitzberg and family.

SHLOMAY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Ian and Randi Sherman, Jonathan, Matthew and Adam.

In memory of Shirley Antecol by Ian and Randi Sherman, Jonathan, Matthew and Adam.

SHLOMAY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND

Happy birthday wishes to Sabrina Engel by her friends at Ganon Preschool.

Happy birthday wishes to Shane Shuster by his friends at Ganon Preschool.

Happy birthday wishes to Isaac Sidei-Echenberg by his friends at Ganon Preschool.

Happy birthday wishes to Rhea Singer by her friends at Ganon Preschool.

Happy birthday wishes to Meredith Barwin by her friends at Ganon Preschool.

Happy birthday wishes to Riley Taggart by his friends at Ganon Preschool.

Happy birthday wishes to Eyal Podolsky by his friends at Ganon Preschool.

SHLOMAY JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE YOUTH SERVICES FUND

In memory of Leonard John (Bud) Smith by the Board and Staff of the Shomay Jewish Community Centre, and by Kayla and Alvin Malay.

LAURA AND GORDON SPERGER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Jay Greenblatt, Halifax, by Laura and Gordon Sperger.

Mazal Tov to Morris Cantor on his 2nd Bar Mitzvah by Laura and Gordon Sperger.

Best wishes to Libby Katz on her special birthday by Laura and Gordon Sperger.

WILLIAM "BILL" STERNBERG MEMORIAL FUND

In celebration of the marriage of our daughter Stephanie Wolfe to Wayne Dancy by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

In appreciation to Bert Wolfe by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

In appreciation to Roddy Elias by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

Yasher Koach for a job well done to the staff and volunteers in the "Big Move" by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

Mazal Tov to cousins Teresa and Ornel Pidskay on the birth of their grandchild Ashley Dawn by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

Jacobson.

Best wishes to Charlie Cook by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.
Mazal Tov to cousins Bill and Judith Goldenberg on their first wedding anniversary by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

JAY B. TALLER MEMORIAL FUND

Mazal Tov to Sally and Morton Teller on the Bar Mitzvah of their granddaughter Yael Bar-Zion Steinberg by Rose and Chick Taylor.

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Sally and Morton Teller.

In observance of the Yahrzeit of our beloved son Jay B. Teller by Sally and Morton Teller.

RUTH TALLER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Hadas Kalchouk by Mendy, Jason and Natalie Teller.

Mazal Tov to uncle Morris Cantor on his 2nd Bar Mitzvah by Mendy, Jason and Natalie Teller.

ODDIS BRONSTEIN TALMUD TORAN AFTERNOON SCHOOL FUND

In memory of Hadas Kalchouk by Elaine and Wesley Schacter and family.

CHARLES AND RAE TAVEL MEMORIAL FUND

Best wishes to Libby Katz on her special birthday by John and Sunny Tavel.

CNARLES AND ROSE TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to Sylvia and Morton Pleet on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Jordan Joseph Pleet by Rose and Chick Taylor.

In memory of Raye Shelt by Rose and Chick Taylor.

In memory of Lawrence Cowan by Rose and Chick Taylor.

In memory of Tesse Schacter by Rose and Chick Taylor.

MOSES, CHENYA AND HENRY TORONTOW MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Bea Torontow and family.

In observance of the Yahrzeit of a beloved nephew Michael Torontow by Jean Naemark and family.

STEPHEN AND GAIL VICTOR ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to uncle Morris Cantor on his 2nd Bar Mitzvah

by Gail and Stephen Victor and family.

Best wishes to Esther Ross on her special birthday by Gail and Stephen Victor and family.

Mazal Tov to Ann and Stan Goldberg on the engagement of Jason by Gail and Stephen Victor and family.

In memory of Lawrence Cowan by Sandy Marchello and Rita Appel.

In observance of the Yahrzeit of my dear mother Sarah Schwartz by Sandy Marchello.

RUTH AND JOSEPH VINER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Sheldon and Natalie Feldman's dear son by Joe and Ruth Viner.

In memory of Lawrence Cowan by Joe and Ruth Viner.

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Joe and Ruth Viner.

WASERMAN FAMILY MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of a dear husband, father, grandfather and brother Paul S. Waserman by Nat and Phyllis Waserman; and by Nessie Waserman and family.

In observance of the Yahrzeit of a dear son and stepson Howard Polowin "always remembered never forgotten" by Phyllis and Nat Waserman.

MIRIAM AND LOUIS WEINER ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to Steven and Laurie Gordon on the birth of their grandson by Louis and Miriam Weiner.

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Miriam and Louis Weiner.

ROBERT WEINER AND LYNN ORECK WEINER FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to Jason Moscovitz on being honoured by Hadassah-WIZO by Lynn Oreck Weiner and Robert Weiner.

IRVING AND DIANE WEXLER ENDOWMENT FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of our dear parents and grandparents Freda and Joseph (Yossi) Cohen by Diana Feller and family.

CNAIM AND SELA ZARETSKY MEMORIAL FUND

Best wishes to Shirley Kordish on her 75th birthday by Sara and Lou Salov.

Mazal Tov to Myrna and Joe Grant on the marriage of their

son David to Julie by Sara and Lou Salov.

BELLA ZELIKOW - NILLEL LODGE PHYSICAL THERAPY FUND

Happy special birthday wishes to Edie Koranyi by Myrna and Norman Barwin, Bella Zelikow and family.

Best wishes to Evelyn and Irving Greenberg on their wedding anniversary by Myrna and Norman Barwin.

NATMAN, DAVID AND MAX ZELIKOVITZ FAMILIES FUND

Mazal Tov to Max Zelikovitz on his special birthday by Marilyn and William Newman; by Dr. Ed and Betty Rose; by Anita and Herb Saslove; by Bess and Casey Swedlow; by Rae and Louis Kevanstein; by Alyce and Allan Baker; by Ricki and Barry Baker; by Ann and David Schlesinger; and by Rose and Chick Taylor.

SANDRA AND SAM ZUNDER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Raye Shelt by Sandra and Sam Zunder.

Mazal Tov to Morris Cantor on his 2nd Bar Mitzvah by Sandra and Sam Zunder.

In memory of Nap Kapinsky by Sandra and Sam Zunder.

Contributions may be made by phoning Kayla Malay at 798-4696 extension 274, Monday to Friday. We have voice mail. Our e-mail address is ojcf@jccottawa.com.

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Many thanks to all who honoured our mother, Mary Potechin, on the occasion of her 100th birthday. We appreciate all the donations and best wishes.

Thanks also to the donors to the Eretz Chapter of ORT's Phantom Tea in mother's name. It was most successful!

The Potechin Family

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Important Notice to all Fund Advisors of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation

Please be advised that unless you have already done so, it will be necessary for you to contact the Foundation, in writing, should you wish to make a change in either the allocation of the income generated from your fund or the beneficiary agencies to which allocations are to be made for 2000.

Unless we hear from you to the contrary, in writing, the allocation committee of the Foundation will allocate interest generated to the same beneficiaries, and in the same proportion, that you designated last year. We cannot make changes requested by telephone. Should you wish to make any changes, please contact the Foundation by October 20, 2000:

By mail to: Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation
The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building
21 Nadelny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9
By fax to: (613) 798-4695
By e-mail: ojcf@jccottawa.com

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**An unveiling
in memory of
Joseph
Koffman
will take place
Sunday,
October 29, 2000
at 1:00 pm
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Family and friends
are welcome to attend**

**An unveiling
in memory of
Sara
London
will take place
Friday,
October 27, 2000
at 11:30 am
Bank Street Cemetery
Friends
are welcome to attend**

BOOK REVIEW

Anthology comprises diverse revelations of the human spirit

(Continued from page 16)
death camps and hatred, in tyranny and anthrax, in bomb and bloodshed." The unanswered question of Job, says Ozick, is Scripture's wise framing of philosophic doubt.

The same seriousness of purpose pervades Mark Slouka's "Hitler's Couch", which tells how his father witnessed Hitler's limousine passing through Brno, Czechoslovakia on March 18, 1939 after that country had been sliced up into Nazi "protectorates". This is how Slouka characterizes the murderous Nazi assault on humanity and the Holo-

caust which accompanied it.

"Adolf Hitler sat down. The motorcade passed, disappearing into the curtain's edge. My father took a bite of bread. Over the next six years, nearly 50 million souls would disappear into a furnace so profound it would forever wither any attempts to reckon its magnitude, caking the brain, leaving only a still, unsounded dust for which there could be no analogies, no accounting, out of which could emerge no saving truth."

Sensing that he should not tread where more pro-

found minds have trod, Slouka leaves the philosophical plane and segues into a personal event which occurred 34 years after the catastrophic finale to the Third Reich. As a student at Columbia University he answered an ad for "student help for the elderly" and met Beatrix Turner, a war correspondent who had entered Hitler's bunker after the suicide of the Nazi leader and his crony, Goebbels.

Turner produced for Slouka a small patch of blood-soiled fabric which, she explained, had come from Hitler's sofa and

which she had cut off personally as a souvenir of that defining moment. Turner also showed her young student a Life Magazine photograph of the correspondents in attendance around Hitler's brocade sofa. Slouka fled unable to assimilate the piece of history to which he had been suddenly exposed.

In retrospect Slouka does have an explanation: "What I reacted to – instinctively, I suppose – was the terrible smallness of the thing, the almost vertiginous compaction of the symbol. Beyond that ridiculous cloth ... I could

sense the nations of the dead pushing and jostling for space, for room, for a voice; it was as though all the sounds of the world had been drawn into the plink of a single drop, falling from the lip of a loosened brain."

Cloth of a different kind is the subject of Arthur Miller's "Before Air Conditioning", a three-page reflection on a torrid heat wave in New York City in 1927 or 1928. In this memoir Miller reconstructs an age without air conditioning and the coat factory which his father operated on 39th St.



The agonizing heat bothered some workers but one employee, whose body odour was more than unpleasant, was oblivious to climate as he laboured to earn the pennies that he put into apartment building investments in the Bronx and real estate in New Jersey and Florida.

Not even a severed finger, reports Miller, could stop this intrepid cutter from continuing his piece work – until his father ordered the gentleman to go to a hospital.

Professor Ages can be reached at sages@interlog.com

JEWISH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Continued from page 24)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22
The Soloway Jewish Community Centre Friendship Club Luncheon, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadelny Sachs Private, noon.	The Greenberg Families Library Book Discussion, Sultia by Malka Maron, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadelny Sachs Private, 1:30 p.m. The Greenberg Families Library presents Jewish Music Through The Ages, Topic: Humour in Yiddish Theatre and Song, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadelny Sachs Private, 7:30 p.m. Talmud Classes with Rabbi Botnick, Beth Shalom Congregation, 151 Chapel Street, 7:00 p.m.	Mitzvah Knitters, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadelny Sachs Private, 2:00 p.m. The Greenberg Families Library Music Appreciation Series, Bruckner's Transcendence with Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadelny Sachs Private, 1:30 p.m. Soloway Jewish Community Centre's Young Adults, Starlight Sukkah Dinner, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadelny Sachs Private, 6:30 p.m. Simchat Ball Hasheva, Ecole Maimonides, 25 Esquimaux Avenue, 7:00 p.m. Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Tikkun Olam in the Workplace, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 7:30 p.m. Youth Aliyah Campaign Launch, Guest Speaker Marion Mayman, National President of Hadasah-WIZO Canada, home of Marcia Cantor, 7:30 p.m. The Miracle Begins Group of Narcotics Anonymous, Beth Shalom Congregation, 151 Chapel Street, 8:00 p.m. Shire Ottawa Rehearsal, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadelny Sachs Private, 8:00 p.m.	Duplicate Bridge, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadelny Sachs Private, 12:00 p.m. Dedication of the Ottawa Jewish Archives Orlabase, Ottawa Jewish Historical Society, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadelny Sachs Private, 7:00 p.m.	Noah's Ark Drop-In Shabbat, Jewish Youth Library, 192 Switzer Avenue, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. HASHANAH RABBAH  CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE 5:50 PM	 SHEMINI ATZERET SIMCHAT TORAH	

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Yom Kippur • October 9

JEWISH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9	TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15
 <p>YOM KIPPUR THANKSGIVING</p>	<p>Talmud Classes with Rebbl Botnick, Beth Shalom Congregation, 151 Chapel Street, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>The Greenberg Families Library Music Appreciation Series, Brahms' Transmission with Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadorly Sachs Private, 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Mitzvah Knitters, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadorly Sachs Private, 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Ottawa Hadassah-WIZO Archive Display, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadorly Sachs Private, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation Be A Friend Bring A Friend 25th Anniversary Closing Event Cocktail Party, The Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau Street, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Shira Ottawa Rehearsal, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadorly Sachs Private, 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>The Miracle Begins Group of Narcotics Anonymous, Beth Shalom Congregation, 151 Chapel Street, 8:00 p.m.</p>	 <p>Duplicate Bridge, The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadorly Sachs Private, 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Noah's Ark Drop-In Shabbat, Jewish Youth Library, 192 Switzer Avenue, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>EREV SUCCOT</p>  <p>CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE 6:02 PM</p>	 <p>FIRST DAY OF SUCCOT</p>	<p>SECOND DAY OF SUCCOT</p>

Calendar continues on page 23

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schaler, calendar co-ordinator at 798-9818 extension 265. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided. You may fax to 798-9839.



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